

**BOROUGH of TOTNES.**

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**ANNUAL REPORT**

OF THE

**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,**

**FOR THE YEAR 1913.**



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GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present to you my Annual Report for the year 1913.

**General Remarks.**—The health of the Borough continues good, despite an exceptional number of notifications of infectious diseases.

There has been during 1913 a moderate epidemic of Scarlet Fever, but in this fact we only share the experience of the whole of England, and in some centres the prevalence of this disease has been relatively much greater than in this Borough. The factors bearing on the public health are carefully analysed under the following headings:—

**Population.**—The population of the Borough must be regarded as essentially the same as that officially stated at the census taken in 1911. This official figure is 4,121.

This figure, as stated in my last report, is an increase of 2·10 per cent. on the preceding enumeration.

**Births.**—The number of births registered in the Borough during the preceding ten years has been 843, equal to an average birth-rate of 84·3 per annum, and an average birth-rate of 20·68 per thousand, calculated upon an average estimated population of 4,076 during the year.

The number of births in 1913 was 69, being 7 less than in the preceding year.

This is equal to a birth-rate of 16·74 per thousand living.

Of these 69 births, 28 were boys and 41 girls.

The birth-rate of England and Wales during 1913 was 23·9 per thousand; and that of the 145 smaller towns of England and Wales was 23·9 per thousand living (London was 24·8).



The birth-rate in the Borough is thus still considerably below that of the country generally, but I have already intimated the main causes leading to this result.

In 1912 the birth-rate was 18·44 per thousand.

It is worth while noticing the births registered in 1908 and following years, viz. :—

1908	...	94
1909	...	93
1910	...	89
1911	...	83
1912	...	76
1913	...	69

**Deaths.**—The number of deaths registered in the Borough during the preceding ten years was 619, an average of 61·9 per annum, equal to a rate of 15·18 per thousand of the average estimated population.

In 1912 the rate was 15·13 per thousand.

The total number of deaths registered in the district in 1913 was 87; in 1912, 96; and in 1911, 81.

Of these 87 deaths, 29 occurred in the Workhouse Infirmary (32 last year), 3 in the Cottage Hospital, and the remaining 55 in the Borough.

Four of those who died in the Workhouse, and one of those who died in the Cottage Hospital were residents in the Borough, and must be added to the 55 deaths occurring in the Borough.

In addition, two residents of the Borough died outside the Borough boundaries, but are to be included in the deaths of residents of the Borough.

This makes the corrected total of deaths of residents within the Borough, 62. This is equal to a mortality of 15·04 per thousand living.

The death-rate in England and Wales during 1913 was 13·7 per thousand, and for the 145 smaller towns of England and Wales 12·8 per thousand. (London was 14·2).

The death-rate in the Borough itself was thus slightly less than that of the ten preceding years, and again rather above that of the country generally.

As in my last Report, I ascribe this result mainly to the large proportion of old people who died in 1913.

The remaining 27 deaths in the Workhouse and the Cottage Hospital were of non-residents of the Borough of Totnes.

They were as follows:—

Paignton ...	...	...	11
Brixham ...	...	...	4
South Brent ...	...	...	4
Halwell ...	...	...	1
Diptford ...	...	...	1
Buckfastleigh ...	...	...	1
Ugborough...	...	...	1
Harberton ...	...	...	1
Cornworthy...	...	...	1
Staverton ...	...	...	1
Dartington ...	...	...	1

Total	<u>27</u>
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**Zymotic Mortality.**—There were no deaths under this heading in 1913, nor in 1912.

The following table shows the deaths due to the principal epidemic diseases during the preceding ten years:—

	1903	'04	'05	'06	'07	'08	'09	'10	'11	'12	Totals
Measles ...	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	5
Whooping Cough	1	6	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	9
Enteric Fever ...	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Scarlet Fever ...	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Influenza ...	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Diphtheria ...	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	2
Totals	<u>3</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>23</u>

This is equal to an average of 2·3 per annum, or ·55 per thousand per annum.

The death rate from the same cause in England and Wales was ·99 per thousand in 1910. The figures for 1911, 1912, and 1913 have not been published.

**Phthisis** (Pulmonary Tuberculosis).—No case of death from this cause occurred in the Borough during 1913. There was one case of death from general tuberculosis (arising from primary Hip Disease). Considering that the above disease is regarded as a national scourge, this record is highly satisfactory as regards the Borough.

**Cancer.**—In 1913, five cases of death from this cause occurred in the Borough, against 8 in 1912.

The average age at death was 69.

As this death-rate from cancer scarcely exceeds 1 per thousand of the population, there seems no cause for any alarm.

**Accident and Suicide.**—No death was recorded under this heading in 1913.

**Infant Mortality.**—During the preceding ten years there were 65 deaths of infants under 1 year of age out of 843 born during the same period, equal to a mortality of 78·26 per thousand births.

Four deaths of infants under one year were registered in 1913—exactly the same as in 1912—to 69 births registered in the same period, equal to an infant mortality of 57·97 per thousand births during 1913. In 1912 the mortality was 52·63 per thousand. The average infant mortality for the ten preceding years (78·26) is considerably below that of England and Wales in 1913 (*viz.*, 109 per 1,000); and that for 1913 (57·97) is well below the average of the preceding ten years, and that of the country generally. These facts are matters for consideration, and congratulation, inasmuch as the infant mortality in any district is an important factor.

**Ages.**—35 of the 62 deaths in the Borough were persons of 65 years or over. This is a satisfactory record.

**Cases Notified.**—Excluding all cases of Tuberculosis, there were 42 cases of infectious disease notified in 1913, as against 19 in 1912.

Taking all cases notified, only three diseases were represented, *viz.* :—

Scarlet Fever	...	...	39
Erysipelas...	...	...	3
Tuberculosis—			
{ Pulmonary	...	...	7
{ Other	...	...	3

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52

These cases were resident in the Borough, and have no reference to cases notified from the Workhouse.



As regards the 39 cases of Scarlet Fever, I wish to report that the isolation of many of these cases is very difficult, and of some cases impossible, and I urge that the Local Authority should seriously consider the possibility of devising some means of isolating these cases, either in an Institution set apart for this purpose, or by some other plan. It is also to be noticed, with some degree of comfort, that although 52 cases were notified of infectious diseases, no death from this cause occurred in 1913.

**Drainage, etc.**—This has been satisfactory during the past year, and is fully reported on in the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

**Water.**—The supply during 1913 was satisfactory in quantity and quality, despite a dry summer, said to be drier than even in 1911.

The water from Soper's Tank has been examined at intervals, and found quite pure. Further details are reported in the Surveyor's Report.

**Dairies and Cowsheds, &c.**—Slaughter-houses, Dairies and Dairy Farms, Bake-houses, &c., in the Borough, have been periodically visited and inspected, and defects found have been remedied, with two outstanding exceptions.

**Factories and Workshops.**—All these, including Laundries and the new Bacon Factory, have been visited this year by me (in company with the Sanitary Inspector), and thoroughly inspected. Very few defects were found, and all that were found have been remedied.

**Housing and Town Planning, etc**—Revision of the full inspection made in 1911-12 has been carried out, as occasion required; but a complete revision on the house-to-house principle is intended for the year 1914

**Prosecutions.**—Two prosecutions were successfully carried out by the Totnes Town Council during 1913. They were (1) Illegal Collection of Dung Refuse, and (2) Illegal exposure of a case of infectious disease in the public streets. In both cases a conviction was obtained.

**Public Convenience.**—Public Lavatories for both sexes are nearing completion, in the Market (High Street). This improvement will undoubtedly be a great boon to the many visitors who come to see this picturesque and ancient Borough, especially in the summer months; and it should also prove of use to the inhabitants of our Town.

**Housing of the Working Classes.**—I am pleased to report that 17 workmen's dwellings are in course of erection; these are being built by private enterprise, aided by the Local Authority, who have laid a new sewer and are laying water supply to meet the requirements of these new buildings. It is earnestly hoped that even more dwellings of this type will be erected before long, as there is plenty of scope for such useful and beneficent enterprise.

**Rainfall, etc.**—The records kept hitherto at Northgate House, Totnes, are not available this year; and I regret to state that the records kept by myself are only complete from May, 1913.

Therefore, by the courtesy of Rev. H. Cooper, I include in my report this year, the rainfall recorded at Berry Pomeroy Vicarage, during 1913, which closely approximates to the rainfall in the Borough itself. The details for 1913 are as follows:—

Month	Total for Month. Inches.	Greatest fall in 24 hours. Inches.	Date.	Number of days with ·01 in. or more recorded.
January	8·4	1·20	4th	26
February	2·1	0·65	7th	8
March	5·90	0·87	29th	19
April	5·19	1·5	26th	18
May	3·70	0·95	7th	15
June	0·86	0·19	6th	11
July	0·59	0·22	31st	5
August	1·35	0·47	31st	12
September	3·14	0·82	6th	14
October	3·55	0·79	7th	20
November	5·47	1·2	12th	22
December	2·65	0·94	24th	15
Total	42·45			185

The Rainfall in 1912 was 55·68 inches, so that 1913 was 13·23 inches less than 1912; but whereas 1912 was an exceptionally wet year, so 1913 was an exceptionally dry one.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

H. R. ALLINGHAM, M.B., B.S., London,

Medical Officer of Health.



TABLE I.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1913 and previous Years.

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.			TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.		TRANSFERABLE DEATHS.		NETT DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.			
		Un-corrected Number.	Nett		Number.	Rate.	of Non-residents registered in the District.	of Residents not registered in the District.	Under 1 Year of Age.		At all Ages.	
			Number.	Rate.					Number.	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births.	Number.	Rate.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1908	4,034	94		23.30	100	24.79	28		9	95.2	72	17.85
1909	4,034	93		23.05	82	20.28	22		6	64.55	60	14.87
1910	4,034	89		22.06	59	14.63	12		2	22.47	47	11.65
1911	4,121	83		20.14	81	19.62	28		7	92.10	53	12.83
1912	4,121	76		18.44	97	23.29	30	1	4	52.63	66	16.01
1913	4,121	69		16.74	87	21.11	27	2	4	57.97	62	15.04

NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.						
		Under 1.	1 and under 5 years.	5 and under 15 years.	15 and under 25 years.	25 and under 45 years.	45 and under 65 years.	65 and upwards.
Small-pox.. ..	..							
Cholera (C) Plague (P) ..	..							
Diphtheria (including Membranous croup) ..	..							
Erysipelas ..	3						3	
Scarlet fever ..	39		9	20	9		1	
Typhus fever ..	..							
Enteric fever ..	..							
Relapsing fever (R) Continued fever (C) ..	..							
Puerperal fever ..	..							
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis ..	..							
Poliomyelitis ..	7				1	4	2	
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ..	3	1			1	1		
Other forms of Tuberculosis ..	..							
Totals ..	52	1	9	20	11	5	6	—

TABLE III.

Causes of, and Ages at Death during the Year 1913.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	NETT DEATHS AT THE SUBJOINED AGES OF "RESIDENTS" WHETHER OCCURRING WITHIN OR WITHOUT THE DISTRICT.									Total Deaths whether of "Residents" or "non-Residents" in Institutions in the District.
	All Ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 2 years.	2 and under 5 years.	5 and under 15 years.	15 and under 25 years.	25 and under 45 years.	45 and under 65 years.	65 and up-wards.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
All causes { Certified (c) ...										
{ Uncertified ...										
1. Enteric Fever ...										
2. Small-pox ...										
3. Measles ...										
4. Scarlet Fever ...										
5. Whooping Cough ...										
6. Diphtheria and Croup ...										
7. Influenza ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	1
8. Erysipelas ...										
9. Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis) ...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	3
10. Tuberculous Meningitis ...										
11. Other Tuberculous Diseases ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
12. Cancer, malignant disease ...	5	.	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	...
13. Rheumatic Fever ...										
14. Meningitis ...	2	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
15. Organic Heart Disease ...	9	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	6	2
16. Bronchitis ...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1
17. Pneumonia (all forms) ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
18. Other diseases of respiratory organs ...										
19. Diarrhoea and Enteritis ...										
20. Appendicitis and Typhlitis...										
21. Cirrhosis of Liver ...										
21a. Alcoholism ...										
22. Nephritis & Bright's Disease ...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	1
23. Puerperal Fever ...										
24. Other accidents and diseases of Pregnancy & Parturition ...	2	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...
25. Congenital Debility and Malformation, including Premature Birth ...										
26. Violent Deaths, excluding Suicide ...										
27. Suicide ...										
28. Other Defined Diseases ...	38	3	1	1	...	...	3	9	21	22
29. Diseases ill-defined or unknown ...										
Totals ...	62	4	1	2		1	5	14	35	32





TABLE IV.

## INFANT MORTALITY.

1913. Nett Deaths from stated causes at various Ages under 1 Year of Age.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Under 1 week.	1-2 weeks.	2-3 weeks.	3-4 weeks.	Total under 4 weeks.	4 weeks & under 3 months.	3 months & under 6 months.	6 months & under 9 months.	9 months & under 12 months.	Total Deaths under 1 year.
All causes { Certified. Uncertified.				1		2	1			4
(Small-pox ... Chicken-pox ... Measles ... Scarlet fever ... Whooping-Cough ... Diphtheria and Croup ... Erysipelas ... Tuberculous Meningitis ... Abdominal Tuberculosis ... Other Tuberculous Diseases ... Meningitis ( <i>not Tuberculous</i> ) ... Convulsions... Laryngitis ... Bronchitis ... Pneumonia (all forms) ... {Diarrhoea ... Enteritis ... Gastritis ... Syphilis ... Rickets ... Suffocation, overlying ... Injury at birth ... Atelectasis ... (Congenital Malformations... Premature birth ... Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus ... Other Causes ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1			
Totals...				1	1	2	1			4

Nett Births in the year {	legitimate ...	69	Nett Deaths in the year of {	legitimate infants ...	...	4
	illegitimate ...	0		illegitimate infants ...	...	0

